

REMARKS

In the present Amendment, Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 4. Claim 2 has been amended, accordingly.

Claim 8 has been rewritten in independent form.

Claim 4 has been canceled. Claim 3 was previously canceled.

No new matter has been added and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the Amendment, Claims 1, 2 and 5-10 will be all the claims pending in the application.

I. Response to Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Wakisaka et al (SPIE article) in view of Kinoshita et al (U.S. Patent 6,479,210) and Lee et al (U.S. Patent 6,753,128).

Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are patentable over the cited references. As noted above, Applicants have in the Amendment, amended Claim 1, from which Claims 2, 5-7 and 10 depend, to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 4, which is not included in the rejection. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

II. Response to Claim Objection

Claims 4, 8 and 9 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

In response, Applicants have rewritten Claim 8, from which Claim 9 depends, in independent form. Further, as noted above, the subject matter of Claim 4 has been incorporated into Claim 1 and Claim 4 has been canceled. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the objection.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

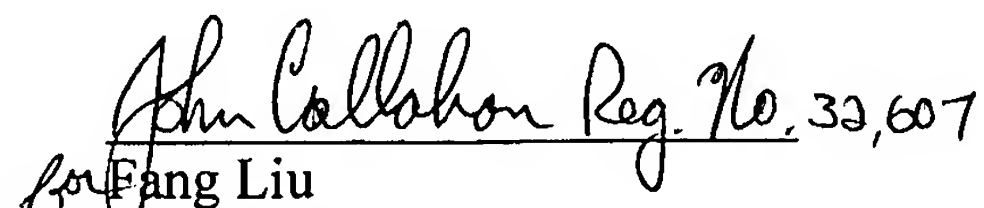
Respectfully submitted,

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